

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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Title: [Hunt-Fish] Fall Permit Application Deadline

Hunter's Choice, fall turkey and Horicon, Collins zone goose permit deadlines August 1

Also, sharp-tailed grouse, and otter, fisher & bobcat

MADISON -- Sportsmen and women looking forward to fall hunting seasons in Wisconsin now have one consolidated permit application deadline that applies to a number of popular hunting activities.

The deadline to apply for Hunter's Choice white-tailed deer hunting permits, fall turkey hunting permits, Horicon and Collins zone Canada goose hunting permits, sharp-tailed grouse hunting permits, and otter, fisher and bobcat hunting or trapping permits have all been consolidated to August 1 each year. Previously there were a number of different deadlines to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for these fall hunting permits.

"We are trying to simplify things for our customers by consolidating all of these fall season application deadlines into one day," says Diane Brookbank, director of the DNR Bureau of Customers Service and Licensing. "We are also working on establishing one date for applications for the spring turkey and bear hunting permits."

Hunter's Choice available in 53 DMUs and 9 state park units

A Hunter's Choice Permit does not represent an extra tag – it allows the holder of an unused regular Gun Deer Carcass Tag the opportunity to harvest one deer of any sex during the gun or muzzleloader deer seasons. A Hunter's Choice Permit may only be used in the unit for which it was issued. A permittee may hunt in other units if desired, but would be restricted to the legal deer specified for the unit.

This year there are 53 Deer Management Units (DMUs) and 9 state park units where a hunter may apply for a Hunter's Choice Permit, according to Brad Koele, Assistant Deer Ecologist with the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management. (Permits are required to enter some state park units, listed below.).

Units that are open for Hunter's Choice Permits this year are DMUs 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29A, 29B, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49A, 49B, 50, 52, 53, 54A, 55, 56, 57A, 57C, 58, 59A, 60B, 72, 73B, and 73D. Park Hunter Choice Permit Units are: 23A, 52A, 57D, 61A, 69C, 72A, 73A, 77D, and 80C.

Hunters should not apply for Hunter's Choice Permits for Zone T, Chronic Wasting Disease or Mississippi River Block DMUs.

Hunters will again receive one free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag along with the purchase of a deer hunting license. Free Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags may be used to tag an antlerless deer in any Zone T or CWD unit.

Again this year, all Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags will be issued over-the-counter on a first come, first served basis beginning at noon on Saturday, August 27 at all license sales locations and online through the DNR Web site. Antlerless Deer Carcass Tag sales will continue until all permits for a unit are issued. Residents and non-residents will have equal opportunity to purchase these permits. Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags may be purchased at a rate of two per day until the Deer Management Unit is sold out. Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags cost \$12 each for residents and \$20 each for nonresidents.

According to Koele, many deer management units are still above the established deer population goal. "In units above goal there are plenty of Antlerless Deer Carcass Tags available for hunters that want the opportunity to harvest additional antlerless deer. If we are going to avoid special herd control seasons in these units in 2006 we need a strong antlerless harvest in 2005."

There is a \$3 application fee to apply for a Hunter's Choice Permit (Conservation Patron License holders are exempt from the \$3 fee). Hunters should refer to the [2005 Wisconsin Antlerless Deer Permit Information brochure](#) (Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® is needed to view and print this portable document format (PDF) file. To download Adobe Acrobat for free, please see the [DNR Download Page](#).) that includes a map and list of the units that are open for Hunter's Choice Permits this year, as well as other valuable information and instructions on applying. This brochure is available on the DNR Web site and at all license sales locations throughout the state.

Fall turkey season

The fall 2005 [wild turkey](#) season will run in one continuous season from Oct. 1 through Nov. 9. A preliminary 83,600 permits will be available. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex per turkey permit. Applications cost \$3 and are available from any DNR service center, ALIS licensing agent, or from the License, Permits and Registrations page of the DNR Web site.

"Looking ahead to the fall hunt, it is difficult to predict fall hunting conditions until poult, or turkey young-of-the-year counts are completed in August," Mezera says.

Sharp-tailed grouse,

Permit levels for the 2005 fall [sharp-tailed grouse](#) season have not yet been determined, but will be set prior to the end of June. The sharp-tailed grouse hunting season will run from Oct. 15 to Nov. 6.

"This spring, fewer dancing males were observed on all of the properties normally surveyed for male sharp-tails," says Andrea Mezera, DNR upland wildlife ecologist. "We believe that a decrease in the number of males can be

attributed to the cool, wet weather last spring, which was not conducive to good brood success. In addition, hunting pressure and a decrease in sharp-tailed grouse habitat can be attributed to the low population levels.”

Last year, approximately 1,000 permits were available to hunters in four management units.

“Hunters should expect an even lower number of permits to be available this spring,” Mezera says. “Because sharp-tailed grouse numbers are low, birds will be more difficult to find. We would like to emphasize that the opportunity to find sharp-tailed grouse is limited and difficult; hunters are encouraged to hunt for the experience, and not for the opportunity to harvest a bird.”

There is a \$3 application fee for the sharp-tail permits. Hunters are encouraged to carefully review their application and only apply for units that are open. Applying for closed units will result in an invalid application.

Horicon and Collins zone Canada goose

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes a season framework for waterfowl season and allocates the number of harvest permits that will be available to each state. The number of Canada goose harvest tags available per applicant for the Horicon or Collins Zones changes each year based on annual population survey data. Permit numbers and season frameworks are not set until late July and, as a result, Wisconsin is not able to set waterfowl season dates and bag limits until mid-August of each year. The number of harvest tags issued has ranged from one to six tags per hunter per season over the last several years.

Because of this process, the number of tags available for the Horicon and Collins zones will not be known by the August 1 application deadline.

“Typically hunters applying for Horicon and Collins goose permits have not known how many tags they will be issued prior to applying for permits, but we try to give them some idea prior to the application deadline,” says Kent Van Horn, DNR waterfowl specialist. “While this change to an earlier application deadline means we have even less definitive data for hunters prior to the application deadline, early indications regarding the Canada goose breeding populations are good this year. At this point, we expect that there will be at least three tags issued per hunter for these zones and possibly more.”

Otter, fishing and bobcat permits

There will be an increase in permit numbers for all three limited-draw furbearer species in 2005, according to John Olson, DNR furbearer specialist.

“The earlier application process will alleviate a long standing problem with getting permits into the hands of successful applicants in time for proper fall planning and preparation,” Olson says. “It takes up to five years of application to receive a bobcat permit and in the past applicants were only provided with about a two-week notice before the season began. With the earlier application deadline,

applicants can expect to get notice earlier before the season begins.” Conservation patron license holders may apply for fisher and otter permits at no additional charge, but must pay the \$3 application fee for bobcats. Those purchasing a trapping license are required to pay \$3 for each species application permit.

Apply on-line or by mail

“The easiest and most convenient way to apply for any of these permits is online through the DNR Web site,” Brookbank notes. “Applying online offers customers the ability to submit their application choices and immediately receive a printable confirmation stating that the application was received. Customers can also pay the \$3 application fee through the Web site by clicking on the link for [licenses, permits and registration](#) and following the prompts.”

Hunters must pay the \$3 application fee for each species permit. For those customers who prefer not to use the Internet for such transactions, completed paper applications can be submitted through the mail. Applications can be picked up and the \$3 fee paid at DNR service centers and license agent locations throughout the state.